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ABSTRACT

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A radio receiver includes a voice-only detection mechanism that detects when the current radio station is transmitting mostly voice, and that changes the function of the receiver depending on whether or not the current radio station is transmitting mostly voice. In a first embodiment, the radio receiver mutes its audio output when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a voice broadcast, or mutes its audio output when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a music broadcast. [The audio output can be enabled once again when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a non-voice signal. The first embodiment thus allows commercials and disk jockey talk to be automatically muted, with the volume returned to its previous level when music resumes. In a variation of the first embodiment, the radio receiver mutes its audio output when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a non-voice broadcast, and enables the audio output when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a voice signal, thereby allowing a listener to listen to talk radio while muting musical commercials.] In a second embodiment, the radio receiver changes to a different radio station when a voice-only signal is detected, or when a music signal is detected. The second embodiment preferably includes a spectrum analyzer that can store a frequency spectrum "signature" of a radio signal, and a second tuner that scans the available radio stations for a signal that matches the stored signature. [This allows the radio receiver to automatically switch from a first radio station to a second radio station that is playing music that matches the preferences of the listener when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a mostly voice signal. In a variation of the second embodiment, the radio receiver may automatically switch from a first talk radio station to a second talk radio station when the voice-only detection mechanism detects a musical signal, indicating a commercial.]